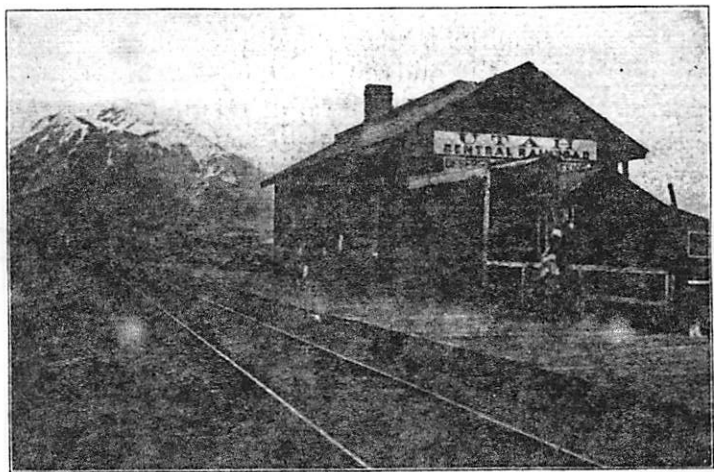


tral Pacific railroads at Promontory saw the beginning of the first local line, the Utah Central, uniting Salt Lake City and Ogden. Brigham Young, at the railroad mass meeting in Salt Lake City (June, 1868), had said: "If the company that first arrives should deem it to their advantage to leave us out in the cold, we will not be so far off but we can have a branch line



OLD UTAH CENTRAL RAILROAD DEPOT, OGDEN.

for the advantage of this city." When, therefore, it became evident that the road would not pass through Salt Lake City, he proceeded to make good his promise respecting the branch line. Hence the creation of the Utah Central Railroad Company, organized on the day that the Union Pacific track reached Ogden.*

*The organizers were Brigham Young, Joseph A. Young, George Q. Cannon, Daniel H. Wells, Christopher Layton, Briant Stringham,

How the Branch Line was Built. Ground was broken at Ogden, May 17, 1869, President Young removing the first sod; and the last spike was driven by him at Salt Lake City, January 10, 1870. Each event was witnessed by a great throng of residents and visitors. At the conclusion of the ceremonies attending the completion, a salute of thirty-seven guns was fired—one for each mile of the road.

This line was built literally by the people. No large contracts were let, and those who constructed it took stock in the road for part of their remuneration. Colonel Carr, a Union Pacific officer, one of the speakers on the tenth of January, referred to the Utah Central as "perhaps the only railroad west of the Missouri River that had been built entirely without Government subsidies." In all probability it would not have been built so soon, had the Union Pacific Company paid the Utah contractors more promptly. At the final settlement, which was delayed by lack of funds, the contractors accepted, in lieu of the same amount in cash, six hundred thousand dollars worth of rails, locomotives, cars, etc. All this property went into the home road and hastened its construction and equipment.

Superintendent Joseph A. Young, in his speech at the driving of the last spike, invited East, West, North and South to come up to Utah and learn of her

David P. Kimball, Isaac Groo, David O. Calder, George A. Smith, John Sharp, Brigham Young, Jr., John W. Young, William Jennings, Feramorz Little, and James T. Little; all of Salt Lake City, except Mr. Layton, who lived at Kaysville, Davis County, through which part the road was to run.